

Message Text

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44

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 EUR-25 ISO-00 SAM-01 IO-14 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04

RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 AID-20 EB-11 OMB-01

TRSE-00 DRC-01 CIEP-03 /186 W
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R 050845Z AUG 74

FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2846

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

CINKLANT FOR POLAD

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUANDA 0665

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT PFOR AO

SUBJECT: TALK WITH ANGOLAN JUNTA PRESIDENT

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

1. INSPECTORS PROPPS AND MOUSER AND I CALLED ON JUNTA PRESIDENT ADMIRAL ROSA COUTINHO MORNING AUGUST 1. (VISIT WAS SUGGESTED AND ARRANGED BY JUNTA MEMBER AIR FORCE COL CARDOSO.) MAIN POINTS:

2. "THE BALL IS IN THEIR COURT." COUTINHO SAID ARMED LIBERATION STRUGGLE IS OVER. ("THEY'VE WON THE RIGHT TO PARTICIPATE.") HOWEVER, NOW LIBERATION PARTIES MUST MAKE PEACE WITHIN AND AMONGST THEMSELVES IN ORDER JOIN A PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT OF AN
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INDEPENDENT ANGOLA. COUTINHO SAID HE HAD DONE ALL HE COULD TO

MAKE CLEAR THAT THE OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IS NOW OPEN TO ALL ANGOLAN ELEMENTS; HE COULD DO NO MORE UNTIL LIBERATION GROUPS RESPONDED. IF ALL BUT ONE (READ FNLA) CAN WORK TOGETHER, THE HOLDOUT CAN BE CONSIDERED AN "EXTERNAL THREAT" (AND BY IMPLICATION, DEALT WITH ACCORDINGLY).

3. NO CEASE-FIRE YET. COUTINHO SAID HIS ORDERS TO THE ARMY HERE ARE SIMPLY TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE FROM ACTIONS OF ANY ARMED GROUP, WHITE OR BLACK. HE ADDED THAT HE COULD HARDLY ORDER PORTUGUESE TROOPS NOT TO FIRE BACK IF ATTACKED, AND ATTACKS HAVE CONTINUED TO TAKE PLACE.

4. CABINDA. THE ENCLAVE MUST BE DE-COLONIZED AS A PART OF ANGOLA ("THAT IS WHAT THE OAU WANTS, ISN'T IT?") AFTER INDEPENDENCE ACHIEVED, CHANGES IN CABINDA'S STATUS, IF ANY, WOULD BE DECIDED BY THE NEW ANGOLAN GOVERNMENT.

5. MILITARY SUPPORT. ADM COUTINHO INDICATED THAT ALONG WITH OTHER TIES BETWEEN AN INDEPENDENT ANGOLA AND PORTUGAL, MILITARY COOPERATION IS POSSIBLE.

6. BRAZILIAN AID. ON SUBJECT OF EXTERNAL TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, COUTINHO MENTIONED HOPE THAT BRAZIL WOULD HELP. ALMOST AS STUDIED AFTERTHOUGHT, ADDED "EUROPE AND THE UNITED STATES ALSO."

7. SOUTH AFRICA. REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA IS LOSING COMFORTING BUFFER STATES. PEACEFUL EVOLUTION OF A MULTIRACIAL, LIBERAL ANGOLA, COUTINHO AGREED, COULD HELP REASSURE SOUTH AFRICANS AND MOVE THEM TOWARD BETTER DOMESTIC RACE RELATIONS. CONFLICT, ON THE OTHER HAND, WOULD FRIGHTEN WHITES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MAKE THEM MORE RECALCITRANT ON RACIAL MATTERS.

8. DURATION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT. "I'M HERE TO FINISH THE JOB" (OF PROTECTING THE POPULATION AND OF SETTING UP THE PROVISIONAL GOVERNMENT). HE EMPHASIZED THAT HE DID NOT KNOW AND WOULD NOT PREDICT HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE TO DO THIS.

9. U.S. POLICY TOWARD ANGOLA. SURPRISINGLY NO QUESTIONS ON THIS SUBJECT FROM THE ADMIRAL.
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10. COMMENT. ADM COUTINHO CONTINUES TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF RELAXED COMPETENCE AND CONFIDENCE TO DO THE JOB AT HAND. HE IS PERSONABLE, INFORMAL, SPEAKS GOOD ENGLISH WITH CLARITY AND PRECISION.
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